

Message Text

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ORIGIN SNM-02

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 250010

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION ANKARA INFO GENEVA DECEMBER 26TH REPEATED
FOR YOUR ACTION

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 250010

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TU

SUBJ: ESENBEL-UNDER SECRETARY CASEY CONVERSATION: TURK

OPIUM BAN

1. TURK AMB ESENBEL CALLED ON UNDER SECRETARY FOR
ECONOMIC AFFAIRS CASEY, DECEMBER 21 TO PRESENT THANKS FOR
THE USG'S ACTION IN SENDING SECRETARY BRINEGAR AS THE PRESIDENT'S PERSONAL REPRESENTATIVE TO TURKEY'S 50TH
ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION. CASEY TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE CALL
TO RE-EMPHASIZE TO AMB ESENBEL OUR APPRECIATION FOR THE
OPIUM BAN AND OUR CONCERN THAT RECENT CAMPAIGN PROMISES
IN TURKEY COULD POSSIBLY RESULT IN A CHANGE OF GOT POLICY
ON THIS ISSUE. HE EMPHASIZED THAT THE TURKISH ACTION
HAS HELPED TO LESSEN THE SEVERITY OF OUR NARCOTICS PRO-
BLEM AND THAT, AT LEAST PARTLY AS A RESULT OF THE TURKISH
ACTION, THERE IS A SHORTAGE OF HEROIN ON THE STREET IN
THE US.

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2. ESENBEL REPLIED THAT HE KNEW OF NO MOVEMENT TOW*RD
CHANGING THE BAN. HE EXPLAINED THAT THE TURKISH NEW

GOVERNMENT WOULD BE A CARETAKER AS HAS BEEN THE PRESENT ONE. HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT SUCH A GOVERNMENT WOULD REOPEN THE QUESTION OF THE OPIUM BAN. HE ADDED, HOWEVER,

THAT PRESS ARTICLES IN THE US REPORTING A SHORTAGE OF OPIUM FOR LEGAL PHARMACEUTICAL USES AND SUGGESTING THAT IT HAD BEEN A MISTAKE FOR TURKEY TO GET OUT OF OPIUM PRODUCTION HAD NOT BEEN HELPFUL. EQUALLY UNHELPFUL HAD BEEN ARTICLES SUGGESTING THAT THERE HAD BEEN NO PRACTICAL EFFECT ON AMERICANS DRUG PROBLEMS AS A RESULT OF THE TURKISH ACTION. CASEY REITERATED THAT BAN HAD BEEN VERY HELPFUL FOR WHICH WE WERE GRATEFUL AND*STATED TH*T ALTHOUGH THE FACTS AS TO WHETHER THERE IS A SHORTAGE ARE NOT CLEAR USC'S FIRST CONCERN REMAINS COMBATING THE DRUG PROBLEM. KISSINGER UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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